

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A modified core-edge topology for a Fibre Channel network includes a server, a first edge switch connected to the server, a first core switch connected to the first edge switch, a second edge switch connected to the server, a second core connected to the second edge switch and a storage subsystem connected to the first and second core switches. This topology creates a first, discrete fabric consisting of the server, the first edge and core switches in the storage subsystem, and a second, discrete fabric formed by the server, second edge and core switches and storage subsystem. The advantage of this topology is that it utilizes the server itself to switch between fabrics, thereby providing redundancy. The result is a robust system in which there is no single component that will cause failure of communication between the server and storage subsystem. Moreover, the topology saves one port per switch on the edge and core switches when compared to prior art core-edge topologies, thereby providing a cost savings.

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